

Message Text

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43

ACTION EUR-12

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NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

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AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

AMCONSUL MUNICH

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

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1. CENTRAL PRESS ANNOUNCED DECEMBER 25 THAT ALL SOVIET CITIZENS WILL RECEIVE NEW INTERNAL PASSPORTS BETWEEN JANUARY 1976 AND DECEMBER 1981. THIS INCLUDES KOLKHOZNIKS WHO PREVIOUSLY WERE DENIED PASSPORTS; THIS WAS CLEARLY STATED BY MVD MAJOR GENERAL I. M. SHUTOV IN DECMEBER 25 ISSUE OF VECHERNYAYA MOSKVA. DECREE 677 OF COUNCIL OF MINISTERS USSR, DATED AUGUST 28, 1974, (OUTLINED IN PARA 3 OF REFTEL) IS ENABLING ACT AND CONTAINED IN THIRD PARA OF ARTICLE 2 LANGUAGE WHICH LOCAL OBSERVERS CONSTRUED AS CONTINUATION
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OF DENIAL OF INTERNAL PASSPORT TO KOLKHOZNIKS.

2. MAJOR POLICY DECISION TO EXTEND EQUAL CIVIL RIGHTS TO KOLKHOZNIKS (NUMBERING MORE THAN 46 MILLION PEOPLE IN MID-1973) WAS TAKEN WITHOUT ADVANCE PUBLICITY. SIMILAR PROPOSAL LAUNCHED IN THE PRESS IN KHRUSHCHEV'S TIME WAS DEFEATED.

3. OTHER CHANGES IN NEW PASSPORT INCLUDED DROPPING OF STIPULATION OF SOCIAL STATUS. THUS, EVEN LINGERING INFERIOR SOCIAL STATUS OF KOLKHOZNIKS WILL DISAPPEAR FROM NEW PASSPORT. UNLIKE PRESENT FIVE AND TEN-YEAR PASSPORTS, NEW PASSPORT IS GIVEN FOR LIFE AT AGE 16, AND NEW PHOTOGRAPHS ARE INSERTED AT AGES 25 AND 45. NEW PHOTOGRAPHS ARE LARGER: 50 X 60 MM. PRESENT PRACTICE OF SHORT-TERM ENROLLMENT OF PASSPORTS AT TEMPORARY PLACE OF ABODE OF PERIODS OF LESS THAN SIX WEEKS IS ABANDONED AND REPLACED BY NONFEE REGISTRATION. NEW PASSPORTS WILL PROVIDE INFORMATION ON BLOOD TYPE AND RH FACTOR OF BEARER.

4. MVD MINISTER SHCHELOKOV IN PRAVDA AND Y.YA. ANOSOV IN IZVESTIYA EMPHASIZE MAJOR ADMINISTRATIVE EFFORT IN STORE FOR MVD AND LOCAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEES IN DISTRIBUTING NEW PASSPORTS. PRIORITY WILL BE GIVEN TO 16-YEAR OLDS, DEMOBILIZED SERVICEMEN, RURAL CITIZENS MOVING TO NEW LOCALITIES, PERSONS CHANGING THEIR SURNAMES, ETC. MVD OFFICIALS ALSO NOTE MAJOR EXPLANATORY AND PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGN CONNECTED WITH ISSUANCE OF NEW PASSPORTS WHICH SHOULD BE DONE WITH PATRIOTIC POMP AND CEREMONY.

5. COMMENT: IMMEDIATE IMPACT OF NEW PASSPORT POLICY ON INTERNAL IMMIGRATION WILL BE ATTENUATED BY TIME DELAYS IN ISSUING NEW PASSPORTS TO KOLKHOZNIKS, WHO WILL REGARD THIS DECISION TO GRANT THEM EQUAL CIVIL RIGHTS AS THEIR "CHRISTMAS PRESENT" FROM THE SOVIET REGIME. WITH THE EXCEPTION OF A FEW FAVORED AREAS SUCH AS MOSCOW OBLAST, KOLKHOZNIKS HAVE SUFFERED INCONVENIENCES AND INDIGNITIES FROM LACK OF INTERNAL PASSPORT. THIS RANGED FROM LEGAL INABILITY TO LEAVE KOLKHOZ AT WILL TO INABILITY TO BUY TRAVEL TICKETS OR GET HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS ON PAR WITH OTHER SOVIET CITIZENS. PRESENT PRACTICE CALLS FOR ISSUANCE TO KOLKHOZNIK OF ONE-TIME TRAVEL PERMIT (SPRAVKA) BY KOLKHOZ CHAIRMAN AND SOMETIMES BY MVD OFFICIAL. INCREASED MOBILITY OF KOLKHOZNIKS IN THE FUTURE SEEMS LIKELY TO INTENSIFY BASIC POPULATION DRIFT FROM NORTH TO SOUTH AND EAST TO WEST DESPITE EFFORTS OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SOVIET GOVERNMENT TO POPULATE RSFSR NONBLACK EARTH AND OTHER REMOTE AND DIFFICULT AREAS.
STOESSEL

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